

Transfer and Articulation

Expectations

Experiences

Implications

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The College Transfer Student in America: The Forgotten Student

AACRAO

Melissa Hattman

Definitions

Articulation

- **The entire range of processes and relationships involved in the systematic movements of students interinstitutionally and intersegmentally throughout post-secondary education.**

Kintzer and Wattenbarger (1985)

Transfer

- The mechanics of credit, course, and curriculum exchange.
- Articulation and transfer agreements facilitate that movement of students between institutions by establishing guidelines for admission and/or transfer credit.

2 + 2 Program

Earning an associate degree and then transferring to a four-year institution to complete the baccalaureate.

Expectations

QUIZ

Statistics on Transfers

Percentage of all beginning students enrolled at public 2-year institutions (1995-1996)

A. 26

B. 35

C. 46

D. 57

Statistics on Transfers

Percentage of degree-seeking community college students who complete a bachelor's.

A.	13
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B.	21
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C.	28
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D.	35
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Statistics on Transfers

Percentage of non-traditional students in two-year college enrollments.

A. 25

B. 35

C. 40

D. 45

Transfer and Articulation

Which is considered a barrier for transfer students?

- A. Transferability of courses.
- B. Feelings of alienation or disconnect from campus.
- C. Loss of credits in transfer.
- D. Insufficient academic preparation.
- E. All the above.

Transfer and Articulation

Articulation agreements between two- and four-year institutions have existed in some form for how long?

- A. 10 years
- B. 20 years
- C. 30 years
- D. 40 years

Transfer and Articulation

The articulation process involves which of the following?

- A. Negotiation and perseverance.
- B. Lots of time.
- C. Volumes of information.
- D. A leader willing to take responsibility for evaluation and continuation of agreements.
- E. All of the above.

Experiences

Transfer students are less likely to...

- **Work with classmates outside of class to complete class assignments.**
- **Communicate with instructors outside of class.**
- **Get involved in extra-curricular activities.**

Transfer Shock

- **Transfer Shock** – A temporary drop in students' grades after transferring.
- **Transfer Ecstasy** – A temporary improvement in grades.
- **Both tend to level off.**

Non-Traditional Students

- **Definition**
 - 25 years old or older
 - Part-time students
 - Commuters
 - Often have family responsibilities
- **45% of all community college students**
 - 57% of part-time students
 - 24% of full-time students

Ethnic Minorities

- **30% of all college students are minorities.**
- **68% of all minority students are at two-year institutions.**
- **25% of community college students are ethnic minorities.**
- **Many are also non-traditional.**

Degree Completion

for Degree-Seeking Community College Students

- **Half will transfer to a 4-year.**
- **68% of those who transfer have not earned an associate degree.**
- **13% earn baccalaureate degree.**

Seven Risk Factors that Negatively Impact Retention

- Enrolling part time.
- Delaying entry into postsecondary education.
- Having a GED or dropping out of high school.
- Having children or dependents.
- Being a single parent.
- Being financially independent of parents.
- Working full time while enrolled.

Implications

Intervention to Encourage Transfer

- **New Student Orientation Focused on Transfer**
- **Career Assessment and Counseling**
- **Transfer Resources**
- **Financial Aid**
- **Advanced and Rigorous Study Options**
- **University Partnership Agreements**

Comprehensive Transfer Program

- **Recruitment and Retention**
- **Scholarships**
- **Advising**
- **Orientation**
- **Housing**
- **Mentoring**
- **Counseling**

Key Elements

- **Communication**
- **Institution Commitment**
- **Faculty Buy-In**
- **Student-friendly Services**
- **Assessment of Programs**

Communication

- Between schools.
- With students.
- Within institutions.
- Among faculty.
- Conferences, newsletters, other.

Institutional Commitment

- Articulation agreements.
- Funding.
- Research and data.
- Leadership.
- Campus-wide understanding of transfer student success.
- Understanding of transfer student importance to university mission.

Faculty Buy-In

- **Faculty evaluation of transfer courses.**
- **Faculty involvement in establishment and review of transfer agreements.**
- **Faculty interactions among campuses.**

Student-Friendly Programs

- **Advising that addresses the unique needs of transfer students.**
- **Orientation and mentoring programs.**
- **Transfer Centers.**
- **Transfer course information readily available.**

Assessment of Programs

- **Data and research on transfer retention and graduation rates.**
- **Success reports on key course performance, program performance.**
- **Surveys and evaluations.**

Broad Goals

Articulation and transfer policies should be structured to –

- **Encourage student retention at the receiving institution.**
- **Build collaborative associations between sending and receiving institutions.**
- **Strengthen existing agreements.**
- **Facilitate systematic approaches to improving transfer.**

The Bottom Line

If colleges and universities accept transfer students into their programs, then they must commit to serving transfer students with a degree of excellence in everything they do.